

Business Roundtable News



Meet DEM's New Director – Dr. W. Michael Sullivan

Adapted from Governor's Office Press Release

On April 8, 2005, Governor Donald L. Carcieri named Dr. W. Michael Sullivan, a Professor of Agronomy at the University of Rhode Island, as the next Director of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). Professor Sullivan is a former State Senator from District 25 and is currently President of the Richmond Town Council.

As a scientist, Dr. Sullivan brings the technical background necessary to understand the challenges facing Rhode Island's environment and, as an experienced public servant, understands the importance of Rhode Island's environment to our state's economic future. His service as a State Senator and Town Council President also provide Dr. Sullivan with invaluable insight into how public policy is formulated and implemented.

A resident of Richmond, Dr. Sullivan grew up in North Attleboro, Massachusetts. He earned his Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Nebraska in 1981. He holds an M.S. in Agronomy from the University of Vermont, and a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Sullivan has taught at the University of Rhode Island since 1981. He has been a full Professor of Agronomy since 2000. The author of scores of articles in scientific journals, his research has focused on land-use management practices and their impact or potential impact on water quality. He has a particular interest in research that focuses on the coexistence of agriculture in urbanized areas.

Previously, Dr. Sullivan was an Assistant Instructor at the University of Nebraska from 1977 to 1981. Dr. Sullivan is a member of the American Society of Agronomy, the Soil Science Society of America, and the Crop Science Society of America. He has also served on a number of boards and commissions, including Rhode Island Scenic Roadways, Borders Farm Preservation, Rhode Island Community Farm, Rhode Island Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission, and Rhode Island Conservation Commission.



Dr. Sullivan is married to Mary Cunningham Sullivan, an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Rhode Island and a Researcher at the Infant Development Center at Women's and Infant's Hospital. They have three children: W. Matthew, Peter and Bridget.

Dr. Sullivan will speak of his vision for the Department at the June 16 Business Roundtable meeting.

Agritourism Growing in Rhode Island - Assistance Available For Farmers

Visiting a working farm and other agricultural, horticultural or agri-business operation for enjoyment or education, otherwise known as agritourism, is a growing industry in Rhode Island. These trips to state farms could be a huge boon to the economy. Sales at farms and farmer's markets, including fruits, vegetables, flowers and plants, have attracted local consumers and out-of-towners alike. Nationwide, agritourism is the fastest-growing sector of the tourism industry and is projected to grow at 30 percent yearly during the next decade.

The farming industry has been gaining strength in Rhode Island and New England in recent years, energized by agritourism as well as direct sales. According to a 2002 census by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the state recorded revenues of \$55.5 million in production and \$12.4 million in profits. Environmental horticulture, which includes sales of flowers, turf, plants, landscape services, Christmas trees and various plants, is the state's largest agriculture sector, accounting for about 68 percent of profits.



Some farms are looking to emulate the overnight bed-and-breakfast farm trip that has been successful elsewhere in New England. The Cottrell Homestead Dairy Farm in South Kingstown is an example.

Most of the state's 858 farms are between 10 and 179 acres, and there are 11 farms larger than 500 acres. Total acreage statewide is over 61,000. What the state lacks in land area, it makes up with pure bang for the buck. Rhode Island farms made an average of almost \$21,000 in sales directly to consumers, ranking the state second in the nation for 2002. Last year, Rhode Island ranked fourth nationally in financial production per acre, at \$1,095, and eighth nationally in profits per acre, at \$163.

Farmers who want to jump in on the trend are working with the Rhode Island FarmWays program. FarmWays is an outgrowth of a partnership between DEM, the Rhode Island Center for Agricultural Promotion and Education (RICAPE), the University of Rhode Island College of

Environment and Life Sciences. FarmWays, administered by RICAPE, provides development, training and assistance for farmers interested in reaching out to the tourism markets. FarmWays was started with an \$85,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In addition in May, the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) along with First Pioneer Farm Credit, the Small Business Association (SBA), DEM and RICAPE, announced a small business loan program aimed at supporting agritourism.

Through this small business loan fund program, \$250,000 is available to those businesses involved in agritourism. Loans range from \$10,000-\$25,000. The funds can be used for upgrades at agritourism venues such as parking lots, bathrooms and other visitor amenities, food service (purchase of machinery and equipment only), and Web site development.

For more information about agritourism programs, contact Stu Nunnery, RICAPE, Executive Director at 222-2780, extension 7104 or email at ricape@earthlink.net.

Farmers' Markets at State Parks Open

Four farmers' markets located in state parks opened on a weekly basis in early May. Farmers' markets in DEM-operated parks and market hours of operation are:



Haines Memorial State Park Farmers' Market

- **Fishermens' Memorial State Park** in Narragansett, Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning on Sunday, May 1.

- **Haines Memorial State Park** on Route 103 on the East Providence/Barrington line, Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, May 4.

- **Goddard Memorial State Park** in Warwick, Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning on Friday, May 6.

- **Colt State Park** in Bristol, Fridays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. beginning on Friday, May 6.

2004 Compliance and Inspection Report Available

The Office of Compliance and Inspection (OC&I) released its 2004 Accomplishment Summary. In 2004, the Office investigated 2,745 complaints and conducted compliance monitoring inspections at 532 businesses throughout the state. Formal enforcement actions in 116 cases resulted in \$1,826,709.20 in proposed penalties. In addition, cases begun in previous years were settled with violators agreeing to pay more than \$736,033 in penalties. The Office also settled 11 cases with supplemental environmental projects (SEP), valued at \$1,088,477.

OC&I's compliance and enforcement programs helped minimize the impact of hazardous materials on Rhode Island's land, air, and water. Some notable results include the removal and recovery of nearly 9,000 gallons of petroleum, 3870 cubic yards of contaminated soil and 15,846 cubic yards of solid waste from various sites.

The full report is available on the DEM web site at:

<http://www.dem.state.ri.us/programs/benviron/compinsp/pdf/accomp04.pdf>

June 2005 Regulatory Agenda On The Way

DEM will release its 2005 Regulatory Agenda Mid-Year Update within the next few days. The agenda, released in January and June of each year, outlines regulatory actions and topics that the Department plans to propose or address within the next 6 months. It also includes a list of regulations that were finalized since January 2005. All state agencies in RI are required to produce such an agenda and submit it to the Secretary of State's Office, the Governor and the General Assembly twice a year (January and June).

When complete, the June agenda will be available on DEM's Regulations webpage at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/index.htm>. General questions on the Department's regulatory agenda can be directed to Elizabeth Stone at 222-4700, x2422 or elizabeth.stone@dem.ri.gov. Questions or comments about particular regulations on the agenda should be directed to specific contact person listed on the agenda.

Mercury Commission Update

Submitted by Elizabeth Stone

The RI Commission on Mercury Reduction and Education, created by the RI General Assembly in 2003 and chaired by Marcella Thompson, issued its final report in April 2005.

The Commission's purpose was to study the system for reducing and eliminating mercury hazards in Rhode Island. A large portion of the Commission's responsibility included an examination of RI's current mercury product law, adopted in 2003 and later amended in 2003, with an eye towards determining if additional statutory changes would be needed in advance of July 1, 2005, when many portions of the law are slated to take effect. The report, on the web at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/hgcomm/index.htm>, makes numerous suggestions for amendments in RI's mercury law, including the following:

- Continue to phase-out mercury products wherever feasible, but the implementation date for the first tier of the statutory phase-out should be delayed from July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006;
- Exempt from all phase-out provisions high intensity discharge (HID) lamps, including metal halide, high pressure sodium, and mercury vapor types;
- Further encourage labeling requirements that are consistent with similar requirements in other states and delay implementation from July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006;
- RI DEM and the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RI RRC) should strive to establish a statewide network for the collection of household mercury-added products; and
- Amend the Mercury Reduction and Education Act (RIGL 23-24.9) to establish disposal ban and collection requirements for mercury-containing auto switches at the end of the vehicle's life.

For a complete listing of the Commission's recommendations, please see Section 8 of the final report (beginning on page 60).

Because a significant amount of RI's mercury (air) pollution originates from sources outside the region, the Commission acknowledged that action must be taken at the regional and national level to reduce mercury to levels that will fully protect all residents equally. As a result, the Commission recommended that Rhode Island should aggressively support more stringent federal standards with well defined targets and deadlines for reducing emissions from power plants, industrial and commercial boilers and sewage sludge incinerators, as well as long-term management and storage of excess elemental mercury. In addition, the Commission recommended that RI DEM should continue to facilitate strong interstate collaboration in developing and implementing public education and outreach programs on mercury-added products.

Questions and comments on the April 2005 final report should be directed to the Commission chair, Marcella Thompson, at marcy_thompson1@yahoo.com.

Earth Day an Overwhelming Success

Earth Day 2005 drew over 44,000 people to Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence for Conservation Week and the Earth Day Festival. All who attended enjoyed music, fun, and environmental education exhibits. The festival featured the Ponagansett High School Band Protium, the World's first hydrogen fuel cell powered band. Protium provided the power supply for all the entertainment.



DEM employee Marisa Davis signs children up to be Environmental Watchdogs at the DEM booth during Conservation Week.

Throughout the month of April, over 9200 volunteers joined forces and participated in over 75 cleanups around the state. DEM awarded 43 organizations mini grants of \$250 each to help enhance their clean ups and provided gloves and bags to the volunteers.

Earth Day RI also recognized a number of groups and individuals. **Toray Plastics, Inc.** was recognized for its recycling efforts (see text box next page). **Westerly's Babcock Middle School** was recognized for a project to raise awareness of E-waste and the importance of recycling obsolete electronic goods. **Cranston's Park View Middle School** received an award for incorporating comprehensive energy programs into curricula and making energy efficiency improvements at the school that resulted in approximately \$8,200 in annual savings. **Bob Cerio**, was

recognized for his work with biodiesel fuels and energy conservation in the Warwick Public Schools, which saved the district over \$2 million in the past six years. **Mark Gould Scholarships** of \$1,500 each were awarded to two local college students. Recipients were **Auriane Koster** of Wakefield, who is currently attending the University of Rhode Island, and **Vanessa Venturini** of Warwick, who will transfer to URI in the fall.

The Earth Day Committee is considering plans for Earth Day 2006. If you would like to join the Earth Day Committee or become a corporate sponsor, please call or email Earth Day Committee Chair Jeff Fornaro at 949-2187 or jefjr@cox.net.



Toray representatives Dan Landry (left) and Jim Ladouceur (right) accept the Corporate Environmentalist of the Year Award from Earth Day RI President, Jef Fornaro (center).

Toray Plastics Awarded for Recycling Efforts

(adapted from Providence Journal article)

Earth Day RI awarded Toray Plastics, Inc. the Corporate Environmentalist of the Year for its recycling efforts. According to the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, Toray has made larger strides in this area than any other Rhode Island company, greatly reducing what it sends to the landfill and recycling waste. Last year Toray recycled 890 tons of corrugated cardboard, wood pallets, office paper and bottles and cans discarded by employees at meal times, on top of the 6,500 tons of polyester and polypropylene film. This amounted to recycling 44.6% of all the wastes created by the plant, excluding the film, with an estimated savings of \$5,000 in dumping fees at the Central Landfill. Toray stated that WasteXpress made the recycling efforts easier by fabricating a special 30-yard waste container and providing them with other tools.

RI Greenhouse Gas Stakeholders Win US EPA Climate Protection Award

Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Stakeholders have won a 2005 Climate Protection Award from the EPA.

Established in 1998, the *Climate Protection Awards* recognize exceptional leadership, personal dedication, and technical achievements in protecting the Earth's climate. Stakeholders received the award for their work since 2001 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions starting with the development of a state



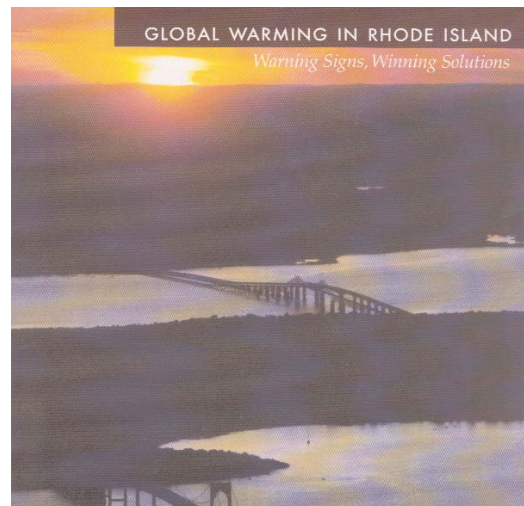
action plan and implementation of a number of initiatives such as a Renewable Energy Standard law and low emissions standards for new vehicles.

Janet Keller of DEM and Emily Rochon of Clean Water Action accepted the award on behalf of the stakeholders on May 4, 2005 in Washington, DC. Stakeholders (shown at left) celebrated the award on May 13 in Rhode Island at a reception with EPA Regional Administrator Robert Varney and DEM Director Michael Sullivan.

New Publication To Help Fight Global Warming

The Environmental Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) published a new brochure aimed at helping state decision makers curb global warming. *Global Warming in Rhode Island: Warning Signs, Winning Solutions* outlines how the state is affected by global warming and provides information on how Rhode Islanders' choices in building maintenance, vehicle purchases, fuel selection and buying products and services can save energy use and help curb global warming.

The ADDD Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation, the Rhode Island State Energy Office, Earth Day RI, ECRI, ECRI Education Fund and DEM provided funding to help with publication. Call or email ECRI at (401) 621-8048 or environmentcouncil@earthlink.net for a copy of the booklet.



Environmental Champions Named

On Earth Day, April 22, Clean Water Action, Ocean State Action and the Rhode Island Public Interest Research Group (RIPIRG) recognized local champions of environmental health at an "Earth Day Breakfast of Champions" event at the Osprey Boat House in Edgewood. The awards recognize individuals who demonstrate leadership in protecting Rhode Islanders' health and environment.

Janet Keller, Chief of DEM's Office of Strategic Planning and Policy was recognized as the "Behind the Scenes Champion" for her leadership in the Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Stakeholder Process. The process brought together diverse interests and led to the adoption of the Clean Energy Act and the Clean Cars Standard.

State Representative Peter Ginaitt and Senator Susan Sosnowski, D-South Kingstown, were recognized as "Legislative Champions."

Representative Ginaitt worked with environmental advocates to pass then later staunchly defend and strengthen the Mercury Reduction and Education Act, the first-in-the-nation legislation to phase out and control mercury products. Senator Sosnowski led the effort to pass the RI Workers' Safety Act, making Rhode Island only the seventh state in the nation to ensure that workers are no longer subject to the dangers of second hand smoke.



2005 Champions, along with Sponsors and former champions (l to r): Harold Ward, Janet Keller, Representative Peter Ginaitt, Senator Susan Sosnowski, Matt Auten of RIPIRG, Roberta Hazen-Aaronson, Margaret Kane of American Lung Association, Bob Walsh of Ocean State Action, Sheila Dormody of Clean Water Action and Representative Paul Moura.

Finally, Roberta Hazen-Aaronson, director of the Childhood Lead Action Project, received the "Lifetime Champion" award for her efforts on legislation that requires owners to decontaminate lead poisoned buildings where children live.

RICOSH Health Alert - - Having Your House Painted This Summer?

Submitted by J. Celenza

If you are going to have your house (or rental property) painted this summer remember that improper paint removal (e.g. unshielded power sanding, dry scrapping or blasting) can poison your kids, your brother or sisters' kids (and neighbors' kids) and contaminate your yard, swings, patio, etc.

Guard against the improper removal of lead paint by making sure any painter you hire is aware of **and going to follow** safe paint removal practices. **DEM Regulation # 24, Removal of Lead Based Paint from Exterior Surfaces** spells out work practices and site preparations that minimize lead dust, as well as practices that are prohibited. All homeowners, landlords, and contractors must comply with the regulation.

If your are going to have a paint job done here is what you can do:

- 1) Check DEM's list of painting contractors and companies enrolled in DEM's Exterior Lead Paint Removal Certification Program at www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/assist/extlead.
- 2) When interviewing a contractor ask them if they are involved in the DEM program. If they are enrolled they should provide you with certificates and a project checklist verifying they will follow DEM's safe removal rules and practices.

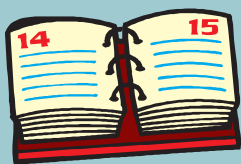
3) Include the lead safe work procedures directly in any written contract you may have.

For more information contact the RI Committee on Occupational Safety & Health, 741 Westminster St. Providence RI 02903, 401-751-2015/fax 751-7520/ jobhealth@juno.com

Alfred L. Hawkes Award Announced - Presentation Luncheon On Tap

Lawson Cary, President of the Narragansett Chapter of Trout Unlimited, will be presented with the Department's 13th annual Alfred L. Hawkes Award for Conservation and Environmental Accomplishment. Mr. Cary is a tireless advocate and a hands-on environmental leader who over the years has volunteered and dedicated an extraordinary amount of time to the preservation, protection, and enhancement of Rhode Island's natural resources.

DEM Acting Director Dr. Michael Sullivan will present the award at a luncheon on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 from 12 Noon to 2:00 PM at the Radisson Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick. The cost for the luncheon is \$20. For more information or reservations, please call Rayna Santoro at 222-2771, extension 2409 or email at rayna.santoro@dem.ri.gov.



Upcoming Events/Meetings

June 20

Senior Farmers' Market Grant Announcement, Downcity Farmers' Market, Kennedy Plaza, Providence, 10 AM. For information, call Gail Mastrati at 222-4700 ext. 2402.

June 21

2005 Alfred L. Hawkes Award Luncheon, Radisson Airport Hotel, Warwick, 12 PM-2 PM. For information, call Rayna Santoro at 222-4700 ext. 2409.

June 23

Ribbon Cutting Event for Segment Four of the Blackstone Bikeway, 10AM. Location TBA. For information, call Gail Mastrati at 222-4700 ext. 2402.

June 30

Annual Green Pastures Meeting to Select 2005 RI Dairy Farm of the Year, Richmond Town Hall, 11 AM. For information, call Ron Newman at 222-2781 ext. 4518.

September 8

Business Roundtable Meeting, DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, 3:30-5 PM.

September 22

Environmental Roundtable Meeting, DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, 3-5 PM.

December 1

Business Roundtable Meeting, DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, 3:30-5 PM.

December 15

Environmental Roundtable Meeting, DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, 3-5 PM.